

UK Plant Genetic Resources Group (UKPGRG) Meeting

DATE & TIME: Monday 27th October 2025, 13:00 – 15:00

LOCATION: Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and online

Nigel Maxted , Univ. of Birmingham (NM) (Chair)	Charlotte Allender , Univ. of Warwick (CA)
Gaynor McKenzie , James Hutton Institute (GM)	Catrina Fenton , Garden Organic (CF)
Adam Gauley , AFBI NI (AG)	Sean May , Univ. of Nottingham (SM)
Solomy Kaweesi , Defra (SK)	Felicidad Fernandes , NIAB (FF)
Clare Williams , Defra (CW)	Charlotte Lusty , Kew (CL)
Lydia Mckenzie , Defra (LM)	Lin Huang , Aberystwyth University (LH)
Debbie Kessell , SASA (DK)	Sarah Watson-Jones , IBERS (SWJ)
Gabrielle Clarke , Univ. of Birmingham (GC)	Sarah Trinder , Univ. of Warwick (ST)
Hannah-Rose Lindley , Univ. of Birmingham (HRL)	Elizabeth Scott , NIAB (ES)
Lydia Smith , NIAB (LS)	Anthony Hopkins , BSPB (AH)

25/21 Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from Julian Hosking, Debbie Kessell (SASA), Matt Ordidge (Univ of Reading), Kalani Seymour (Plant Heritage) and Joe Taylor (JNCC).

25/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2025 (NM)

Following on from the discussion of the UK plant biodiversity indicator during the July 2025 meeting, confirmation of (i) the deadline for the UKPGRG to submit a UK plant biodiversity indicator proposal to JNCC and (ii) the proposal's requirements were requested.

ACTION: CW to confirm the deadline and proposal requirements with Joe Taylor (action in progress).

25/23 Actions and Matters arising

From (Date)	Number	Action	Owner	Status
12 March 2025	1	<u>Inviting BSPB to join the UKPGRG</u> Item 23/28: Action Liz Scott: to follow up with Anthony Hopkins at BSPB Item 25/03 ACTION: NM to email Anthony Hopkins.	NM	Completed – AH has joined the group.
12 March 2025	2	<u>Inviting AFBI NI to join the UKPGRG</u> Item 24/13: Liz Scott to send contacts at AFBI to NM via email following this meeting. Item 25/03 ACTION: Defra to reach out to AFBI, and to cross reference contacts with EMS.	LM/EMS	Completed - AG has joined the group.
16 July 2025	3	Item 25/13: UK Biodiversity Indicator on Plant Genetic Resources (NM/JT) ACTION: UKPGRG to submit an indicator proposal to UKBI PGR team by end of November.	All	Ongoing – indicator proposal to be discussed during UKPGRG March 2026 meeting and submitted later.

16 July 2025	4	Item 25/13: UK Biodiversity Indicator on Plant Genetic Resources (NM/JT) ACTION: LH to set up a meeting with the UKPGR group to agree the data that will be included in the UK PGR inventory database.	LH	Ongoing – indicator proposal to be discussed during UKPGRG March 2026 meeting.
16 July 2025	5	Item 25/13: UK Biodiversity Indicator on Plant Genetic Resources (NM/JT) ACTION: Defra and JNCC to meet to discuss the indicator development and reporting statistics.	CW/ JT	Completed.
16 July 2025	6	Item 25/13: UK Biodiversity Indicator on Plant Genetic Resources (NM/JT) ACTION: JT to set up a meeting with the UKPGR group to follow up on the UKBI PGR proposal development.	JT	In progress.
16 July 2025	7	Item 25/14: Varietal certification sample availability (NM) ACTION: NM to present this item at the October 2025 UKPGRG meeting to discuss the topic when NIAB are present.	NM	Completed – discussed during agenda item 25/27.
16 July 2025	8	Item 25/15: Defra Update (CW) ACTION: Defra to ask Chris Barker for a list of programmes and scale of FP10.	Defra	In progress.

25/24 UK Biodiversity Indicator on Plant Genetic Resources (LH)

LH shared progress on the development of the UK Plant Genetic Resources Biodiversity Indicator (UKPGRBI) proposal but highlighted that more development is required before the proposal discussion amongst this group will take place. The proposal discussion will take place by the next UKPGRG meeting in March 2026 and will inform the UKPGRBI proposal that this group will submit to JNCC.

Since the last UKPGRG meeting, LH, NM, CW and Joe Taylor met to discuss the UKPGRBI and data collection. One element of outstanding development for the proposed UKPGRBI is obtaining extensive data on plant genetic resources that represents biodiversity across the UK, including sourcing representative data from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. LH confirmed that data received by IBERS for submission to EURISCO is a subset of available data rather than a source for representative data. For example, EURISCO does not list material that does not have seeds available for request.

A UK national plant genetic resources inventory was highlighted as a necessary database for information sharing. A query was raised regarding whether the current systems that are used to process data for EURISCO submissions have a field that records the availability of accessions. It was confirmed that there is a field for available wild species but not for in-situ species. A key problem with data on EURISCO recording the availability of accessions was noted - the data is not live since UK submissions to EURISCO are made on an annual basis.

The group discussed the aim of the proposed UKPGRBI. It was noted that more data sources may not be helpful if the key questions that the indicator is expected to answer have not yet been determined. A proposal discussion point was raised: whether the scope of the UKPGRBI is biodiversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It was noted that data from Plant Heritage has wider coverage than food and agriculture.

NM confirmed that he will work with LH to produce discussion points for the development of the UKPGRBI proposal, and these points will be shared with group ahead of the next UKPGRG meeting in March 2026.

ACTION: NM and LH to produce UKPGRBI proposal discussion points and circulate amongst the group ahead of the next UKPGRG meeting in March 2026.

25/25 Defra Update (CW)

CW presented slides to discuss the enhancement of the multilateral system for access and benefit sharing under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ahead of the 11th Governing Body meeting in Peru from 24-29 November 2025. The group provided feedback on three topics: (i) the expansion of Annex I; (ii) Digital Sequence Information/Genetic Sequence Data (DSI/GSD); (iii) payment structures and rates. CW invited further feedback by email by 31 October 2025.

25/26 Crop wild relative and landraces inventories presentation (HRL and GC)

There was insufficient time for HRL and GC to present.

ACTION: Crop wild relative and landraces inventories presentation agenda item has been moved to the next meeting in March 2026.

25/27 PGR applications / Project updates (All)

The group shared applications and project updates.

Varietal certification sample availability was discussed.

25/28 AOB (NM)

ACTION: LS to look into inviting members of the group for underrepresented crops to the UKPGRG.

25/29 Date of next meeting (NM)

The group agreed the next meeting will take place on 18 March 2026.